Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

San Antonio Regional Office 110 Broadway Suite 300 San Antonio, TX 78205 Tel: 210.224.5476 Fax: 210.224.5382

Via Facsimile

June 17, 2007

National Headquarters Los Angeles Regional Office 634 S. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90014 Tel: 213 629 2512 Fax: 213.629 0266

Grant Cook 5005 Riverway, Ste. 210 Houston, TX, 77056 (713) 552-1610 (fax)

Atlanta Regional Office 41 Marietta Street Suite 1000 Atlanta, GA 30303 Tel: 678 559 1071 Fax: 678.559.1079

Dr. Wendell Brown P.O. Box 1909 Uvalde, Texas 78802 (830) 591-4967 (fax)

Chicago Regional Office 11 East Adams Street Suite 700 Chicago, IL 60603 Tel: 312.427.0701 Fax: 312.427.0691

Second Letter to Dr. Wendell Brown, Superintendent- UCISD and **Uvalde CISD Board of Trustees** DR-70-CA-14, Morales v. Shannon

Washington, D.C. Regional Office 1717 K Street, NW Suite 311 Washington, DC 20036 Tel: 202.293.2828 Fax: 202.293.2849

Dear Mr. Cook and Dr. Brown:

Houston **Program Office** Ripley House 4410 Navigation Suite 118 Houston, TX 77011 Tel: 713.315-6494 Fax: 713.315-6404

This letter serves as a reply to the District's response to Plaintiffs' letter dated June 5, 2007.¹ We identified two major concerns with respect to the desegregation plan of the Uvalde CISD: 1) the District's failure to seek court approval of the closure of grades 7 and 8 at the Batesville School and the transfer of those students to Uvalde Junior High School; and 2) the District's failure to produce the required annual reports. The District's reply is wholly deficient for the following reasons and Plaintiffs request a response within seven days of the date of this letter.

Sacramento Satellite Office 11079th Street Suite 240 Sacramento, CA 95814 Tel: 916.443.7531 Fax: 916.443.1541

I. **Batesville School**

The desegregation plan entered by the federal district court on June 28, 1976 and the subsequent modifications of the order control the assignment of students in the Uvalde CISD. The District acknowledged the court's oversight when it filed for permission to modify the desegregation plan in 1995 and again in 2002. The latter filing (Dkt. No. 97) concerned a request by the District to allow students to attend grades 7 and 8 either at the Batesville School or Uvalde Jr. High School. The District's current position mistakenly interprets the court order of 2002.

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¹ This letter was faxed directly to Dr. Wendell Brown, as Mr. Cook had permitted Plaintiffs' counsel to discuss these matters with Dr. Brown. If such communication is no longer permitted, please advise.

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Nowhere in the court's order does it authorize the closure of grades 7-8 at the Batesville School. Rather, the order gave students the *choice* of attending Batesville or Uvalde Jr. High. The District's decision to close Batesville provides those students with no choice.

Accordingly, Plaintiffs request that the District inform them whether the District intends to file for modification of the desegregation plan. Plaintiffs further request that the District provide Plaintiffs with documents and other existing evidence of its efforts to implement the 2002 modification, including but not limited to the special curricula programs developed to attract students to the Batesville School; the existing curricula programs available at the Batesville School for grades 7-8 and Uvalde Jr. High School; and the effects on the faculty, staffing, student assignments, transportation, class sizes, and bilingual/ESL programs at both Batesville and Uvalde Jr. High. Plaintiffs further make a second request for all required notices and supporting documentation related to the closure and transfer.

II. Annual Report

The "annual report" submitted by the District to the Court is wholly deficient. The desegregation order signed by the Court on June 28, 1976 and the subsequent supplemental order filed on May 5, 1995 identify a number of different reporting requirements by the District. Despite Plaintiffs' request for Defendants to comply with the Court order, Defendants filed its "Statistical Report" on June 12, 2007 with very limited information. Accordingly, Plaintiffs intend to file an objection with the Court.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David G. Hinojosa

Staff Attorney

CC: Client